

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PARTICIPATION OF CANADIAN PROVINCES IN DEMONSTRATION
OF INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATION INFORMATION SYSTEM (IRIS)

REFS: OTTAWA 556; 1035

1. AS AGREED O'CONNOR/NEWPORT AND O'CONNOR/EYMONERIE
TELECONS OF MARCH 8, FOLLOWING IS TO BE USED AS INPUT IN
LETTERS TO MESSRS. STEPHENS AND GARDNER:

----- A. LETTER TO D. R. STEPHENS, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF
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PAGE 02 STATE 058476

HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION, MOT:

----- THE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT CONDUCTED BY FHWA IS
DESIGNED TO (I) FACILITATE THE RECORD KEEPING AND INFOR-
MATION EXCHANGE PROCESS FOR THE STATES AND THE PROVINCE
OF ALBERTA WHICH ARE MEMBERS OF THE IRP AND POTENTIAL
USERS OF THE PROPOSED IRIS SYSTEM; AND (II) FACILITATE

THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL TRUCK PERMITS BY THE INTERNATIONAL TRUCK PERMIT CENTER (ITPC) FOR THOSE STATES AND CANADIAN PROVINCES INTERESTED IN AVAILING THEMSELVES OF THE SERVICE. FHWA IS THEREFORE EXTENDING AN INVITATION TO THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA TO PARTICIPATE IN IRIS AND ITPC AND HOPING FOR AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ON THE PART OF CANADIAN PROVINCES

TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT. THE TOTAL US/CAN PARTICIPATION IS, OF COURSE, CONDITIONED BY THE LIMITATION OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT ALLOCATED TO THE PROJECT (I.E., NOT ALL 50 STATES AND 10 CANADIAN PROVINCES COULD BE ACCOMMODATED) AND THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA OUTLINED IN THE RFP (COMMUNICATED EARLIER TO O'CONNOR). FHWA SEES DEMONSTRATION PROJECT AS EFFORT TO SIMPLIFY CUMBERSOME PROCEDURES AND APPRECIATES MOT'S ENDORSEMENT.

----- B. LETTER TO MR. GARDNER, CANADIAN SURFACE TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION, MOT:

----- START OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECT IS CONDITIONED BY BUDGET ALLOCATION OF FUNDS, BUT IS EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE APPROXIMATELY IN MAY OF 77. PROJECT WOULD LAST FOR ONE REGISTRATION YEAR IN EACH JURISDICTION SELECTED. THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF FUNDS TO BE USED FOR EACH JURISDICTION IS \$50,000. THE CONTRACT FUNDS WILL COVER THE EQUIPMENT, SETUP COSTS AND OPERATING COSTS FOR THE PERIOD OF THE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT. THE LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED TO COVER THESE COSTS WILL VARY BY JURISDICTION BASED ON EACH JURISDICTION'S NEEDS, EXISTING LEVEL OF UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 058476

AUTOMATION AND SERVICE LEVEL OF IRIS SELECTED FOR THE DEMONSTRATION AS JOINTLY DETERMINED BY FHWA AND THE CONTRACTOR. THEREFORE, IT IS POSSIBLE FOR FHWA TO MAKE ALL TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR A PROVINCE'S PARTICIPATION IN IRIS, WITHOUT TRANSFERRING FUNDS TO THAT PROVINCE. DECISIONS ON TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS ARE SOLELY AT THE DISCRETION OF FHWA, THE FUNDING AGENCY, WHILE, OF COURSE, THE PARTICIPATING ENTITY RETAINS THE OPTION TO ACCEPT OR REJECT THE CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION.

2. FOLLOWING WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

----- A. FHWA OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH MR. GARDNER AS WELL AS MR. IAN F. GILBERT OF THE GOC MOT IN MONTREAL. MR. GILBERT IS FAMILIAR WITH THE IRP/IRIS CONCEPT AND HAS SEEN THE COMPUTERIZED MODEL OF THE SYSTEM AND HAS BRIEFED MR. GARDNER ON BOTH SUBJECTS.

----- B. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS CONTAINED IN YOUR 556, THE RFP FOR THE IRIS DEMONSTRATION IS NOT AN INVITATION TO ANY JURISDICTION TO JOIN THE IRP. THE IRP IS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE AAMVA (AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATORS), WASHINGTON, D.C. ALL OF THE CANADIAN PROVINCES ARE MEMBERS OF THE AAMVA. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE IRIS AND ITPC DEMONSTRATION PROJECT, IF

BOTH CONCEPTS ARE PROVED FEASIBLE AND COST-EFFECTIVE, FHWA WILL TURN OVER MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE AAMVA FOR THE IRIS WITH THE IOWA DOT CONTINUING TO OPERATE THE ITPC.

----- C. THE COMPLAINTS THAT CANADIAN TRUCKERS HAVE EXPRESSED THROUGH MR. MACLAREN ABOUT THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY USE TAX AND SOCIAL SECURITY TAXES ARE BEYOND THE PURVIEW OF FHWA. WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED BY IRIS THAT
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PAGE 04 STATE 058476

MR. RICHARD REYNOLDS, REVENUE SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE, US EMBASSY, OTTAWA, WILL LOOK INTO THE USE TAX ISSUE.

----- D. PER YOUR REQUEST WE ARE FORWARDING TO YOU, BY MAIL THE VARIOUS REFERENCE MATERIALS PERTAINING TO THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY USE TAX AND THE IRP AND COPY OF REVISED RFP.

----- E. PRESENT AND ANTICIPATED MEMBER JURISDICTIONS OF THE IRP ARE THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA AND THE FOLLOWING STATES: KENTUCKY, TENNESSEE, MISSOURI, TEXAS, MINNESOTA, OREGON, NEBRASKA, UTAH, COLORADO, SOUTH DAKOTA, MISSISSIPPI, VIRGINIA, WYOMING, MONTANA, ARKANSAS, LOUISIANA, IDAHO, ALASKA, ILLINOIS, OKLAHOMA, NORTH CAROLINA, WISCONSIN, MARYLAND, IOWA, CALIFORNIA, MAINE, MASSACHUSETTS, AND NEW YORK.

3. FHWA IS PREPARED TO ASSIST MOT OFFICIALS IN EXPLANATION AND PRESENTATION OF CONCEPT TO PROVINCES IF DEEMED NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE BY EMBASSY. ALSO, IS THERE NEED FOR MOT CLEARANCE OF BRIEFING/DEMONSTRATION MATERIALS AFTER PARTICIPATION BY PROVINCES HAS BEEN APPROVED?

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